

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract originally appearing on page 17 of the application with the following rewritten paragraph:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for mixing and dispensing an influent slurry into a tank is provided. The apparatus may include a body having a sidewall and floor which together define a volume for the slurry to pass through. Fixed baffles and rotating paddles may be disposed within the body in an interleaved manner to promote mixing of the slurry with a flocculating reagent. The apparatus may also include scrapers for reducing built-up floc on the walls and/or floor of the apparatus. The floor of the apparatus may define a constricted opening for discharge of the slurry. The constricted opening, which serves to control the flow of the slurry through the body of the apparatus, also helps to increase mixing time of the slurry with the flocculating reagent. The constricted opening may be configured as an annular or ring-shaped port.